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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Buenos Aires, Argentina

✓ 045

August 9, 1976

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Jack M. Smith, Jr., Esquire  
ARA/ECA Room 4909  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full DECONTROL

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Dear Jack:

**DECONTROL**

Following your suggestion, I called Emilio Mignone, who came to see me at his request several days later. He appeared very haggard and had no news about his daughter, missing now almost three months. His appeals to the police, military, Interior Ministry and President Videla have either been ignored or met with negative reply. His letter, however, was published in part in a number of local newspapers some weeks back.

Mignone appeared to understand how little the Embassy can do in such cases, but was grateful for the expression of interest. He himself was forced to resign from his position as rector of Lujan University right after the coup and is now writing a book on university reform. He is deeply distraught over his daughter's disappearance and predicts that the Church will eventually take the lead in confronting the military government. The bishops, he claims, brought a list of 400 missing persons to President Videla and threatened a manifestation if Videla doesn't rein in his security forces. It doesn't appear to have done much good: they arrested five seminarians and an American priest last Wednesday in Cordoba.

Sincerely,

*Yvonne*

Yvonne Thayer  
Political Officer

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MIGNONE